

ENTERTAINMENT

PROFILES

ALEXANDER LAZAREV



Iber opera should die or live are wrong. The problem lies in artistic slendents.

Did you derive particular pleasure from any of your productions? I asked, and the conductor mentioned Prokofiev's "The Gambler" and Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Snow Maiden".

Both productions, by the way, bore a clear imprint of big musical standards and interesting artistic directing. Differing upon the relations between a conductor and an artistic director in opera — one of the topical problems of the day — Alexander Lazarev points out that his contacts with different artistic directors had convinced him of one thing: if an artistic director and a conductor brought a coordinated concept to the first rehearsal this would make half of their success. Of course, everything must be passed on to the cast and the whole staff involved, but a bright idea holds place of pride. This is how he worked with Boris Pekovskiy, an outstanding artistic director of operas, when they staged "The Gambler" and this is what happened when he worked with well-known drama director Boris Rivenkikh on "The Snow Maiden".

His recent production is Prokofiev's opera "A Story About a Real Man".

Due to certain specific dramatic features this opera has never been a real success, the conductor says. His music is brilliant and it must live and be heard. I think this opera is the best opera about the Great Patriotic War. What are we to do to make it interesting for broad audiences? How can we make it more vivid, exciting, dynamic, and at the same time forceful? This is what I thought: during World War II we celebrated the 700th anniversary of the victory won by Russian troops over Teutonic knights, and Prokofiev wrote a cantata, "Alexander Nevsky", about it. This cantata sounded like an alarm bell during the war. I also thought that behind the feet of pilot Alexei Moseyev laid in the "Story" stood the tremendous might of the Russian people who have more than once rebelled against the oppressors. This is how I came by the idea of including excerpts from the cantata in the opera score...

This is what he says about certain problems facing opera today:

I do not consider myself as belonging mostly to opera although I love this genre. Moreover, I think that all the historically shaped musical genres opera possesses the greatest and most powerful arsenal that can affect human emotions, imagination and hearts. Music, staging, voices, the might of symphony orchestra, the developing action on stage, spectacular scenery and direct contact with audiences which creates emotional currents binding stage and listeners — isn't it much?

Those who deliberate on the theme of what...

Maya PRITSKER

Another version of 'Don Quixote'

Popular Georgian cinema and drama actor, People's Artist of Georgia Kukh Kavzadze learned from his own experience that art demands sacrifices. For two months or so he lost... 20 kilos because of his new role in a nine-part feature film "Don Quixote". The film is being shot by Soviet film makers jointly with their Spanish counterparts and the French firm Pathé Cinéma.

I lost the first 10 kilos prior to the audition, as a result of strict diet, smites the actor. The rest 10 kilos vanished while I

was waiting for my appointment as a "knight of the sedcountryside". Then I was just to the point, otherwise I wouldn't have got in my armour.

Several episodes have already been shot at filming sites of the Gruziafilm Studios in Akhalkalaki (south of Georgia) and in the Georgian desert, Udebo. The rest will be shot in Spain.

In all there are 134 roles in the film to be played by noted Soviet as well as foreign drama and cinema actors. The dances are choreographed by famous Spanish dancer Violante González.

Film director Rezo Chkheidze

reminds us of what Cervantes once said: "Let it be that while reading the novel the melancholy person would start laughing, the merry person would become even more merrier, the simpleton wouldn't get bored, the reasonable would be delighted by your invention, the sober-minded wouldn't blemish it while the wise couldn't but praise it." If this happens we'll all be happy...

FACTS and EVENTS

Opera, The Maly Opera and Ballet Theatre of Leningrad has premiered Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin". The new production is another piece in the Pushkin cycle in classical music. Next January the opera is to be shown in Italy where Leningradors have already performed the "Queen of Spades".

Art, a fair of art works of socialist countries, Interart-85, has opened in the Polish city of Poznan. On show are works of painting and sculpture, graphic and applied art by 1,300 masters from nine socialist countries, including the Soviet Union.



'LIBERTADOR'

Libertador means liberator. This is how they call Latin American national hero and anti-colonial fighter Simon Bolívar.

On the initiative of the Venezuelan Government, UNESCO has celebrated the bicentenary of Simon Bolívar's birth and an international prize has been instituted in his honour. Artist Vladimir Zamkov expressed in his portrait the lofty impression about the remarkable champion of freedom who com-

bined in himself the will of a statesman and the courage of a fighter. It is not the first portrait by the artist dedicated to the glorious son of Latin America. In his time Zamkov was awarded the order of Francisco de Miranda for his portrait of the hero. His portrait of Augusto Sandino, donated to the Government of Nicaragua, was an expression of fraternal feelings by Soviet people towards the republic's fighters for freedom.

On behalf of the Soviet Ministry of Culture the portrait of Simon Bolívar has been donated to UNESCO.

Artist's Indian themes

Travel notes and sketches, the memory about meetings on Indian soil form the basis of illustrations by Byelorussian graphic artist, Georgi Poplavsky, for Rabindra Tagore's book "The Garden of Songs". The series of lithographs will decorate the Indian poet's book due to be released by Moscow's Khudozhestvennaya Literatura Publishers.

Love at first glance — was how the Byelorussian artist called the feeling he conceived 10 years ago during his first encounter with India. His admiration for this ancient country's art, people and nature was reflected in his cyclo called "The Garden of Songs".

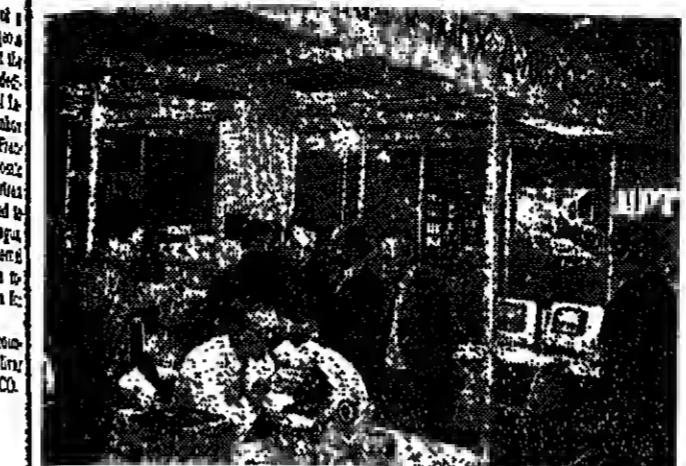
In accordance with a working protocol signed by representatives of the USSR State Committee on Television and Broadcasting and the ZDF broadcasting programme, the West German television recently organized Soviet Union Day. TV viewers watched USSR lecture and documentary films as well as circus performers.



TV announcer Tatyana Romashina and her West German counterpart Ulrich Kast.

Maya PRITSKER

BUSINESS



Optical instruments displayed at the exhibition by the West German firm Opton.

Photo by Vitaly Yastrzhembsky

REVIEW OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

"Electrotekhnologiya-85", an annual specialized exhibition of technological equipment, cabling, electrotechnical, has opened at the Krasnaya Presnya in the Sokolniki Park complex. Participating are more than 500 companies, enterprises and organizations from 20 countries.

One of the participants — the German E. I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company is a veteran of Soviet-American trade. For several years this firm has been maintaining contacts with Soviet organizations specializing in chemistry, electronics, etc.

Mr Arthur Rice, manager, technology sales programme: I have known Russians since the end of World War when we all together against Nazism. The time has passed and although a deal has changed in relation between our countries, I still cannot be abolished.

I am glad to be working with our colleagues. Though in 20 exports of our company to socialist countries like a great piece — 4 per cent — this is rather important cooperation.

Our annual trade with the USSR is estimated at tens of millions of dollars. But we are not yet content. We would like to sell and buy much more. By the way, our imports from the USSR are somewhat higher than exports. We are buying your country's finished products and licences. For example, we recently bought a Soviet patent for the production of a Soviet medical preparation, eloxinol.

Soviet colleagues too show a great interest in buying our technology. Thus, the USSR imported from our company the licence for the production of polychloroprene rubber. Scientific-technical contacts are developing. Du Pont has an agreement with the State Committee for Science and Technology on which we have protocols with various Soviet organizations carrying out contacts in scientific and production cooperation. Specifically, this concerns chemistry and environmental protection.

The Swiss AFIC company has been operating on the Soviet market, said Martin Denner, its technical director. The main field of cooperation is the electronic industry. At first we supplied diverse equipment, mainly for the production of electronic components. Later we exported whole plants. Today two Soviet plants in the electronic industry

as well as three water purification works have been fully fitted out with our equipment. In the first year the cost of our contracts was estimated in hundreds of Swiss francs; today we hold negotiations on deals worth several millions.

We offer on the Soviet market not only separate machines but also completely equipped plants, as well as technologies, know-how and training of personnel.

Negotiations are under way on the procurement from AFIC plans for the production of electronic components and for water purification. Our cooperation is effected on the basis of progressive forms, specifically on compensation transactions.

Now our company is studying the potentialities of the Soviet market in the context of long-term purchases from the USSR. We have studied the Soviet economic development plan for the next five-year period and the period ending in the year 2000, and have realized that electronics and environmental protection are among the priority trends. In these fields we shall be able to offer Soviet clients a great deal and our cooperation will become, I believe, more fruitful.

Natalya TZYUMOVA

Elektrim's main partner

A big contract for the delivery of transformers and electric equipment to the USSR has been signed in Warsaw by representatives of the Soviet V/O Mashinexport and the Polish firm Elektrim. Next year clients in the Soviet Union will receive modern highly-efficient equipment worth 40 million rubles. The Soviet Union is Elektrim's biggest foreign partner.

It accounts for 35 per cent of the total exports of the firm which processes and supplies many countries with complete plants for thermal and atomic power stations, steam boilers, turbo-generators and many other types of electric equipment.

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train-pulling	60
shunting work	30
Minimum track curve radius, m	50
Turbocharged six-cylinder diesel, hp	250

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Sandvik marks anniversary

This year Sandvik, one of the biggest Swedish industrial companies, marks its decade of active cooperation with the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, Stankolimport association, Aviopromolimpot, Licensintorg and others. We maintain close ties with the B. O. Pioner Institute of Electrical Welding in Kiev by jointly developing new electrodes for welding machines for years of cooperation we have fulfilled orders for instrumental production of the Likhachov Motor Works and enterprises in Leningrad, for the Volga, Kama and Byelorussian automobile works and also the Urals machine-building plant.

A major joint work — the organization of a new production of hard alloys in Moscow — was completed four years ago. For two years we have been buying the Elobor hard alloy developed by Soviet scientists.

We are now discussing with Soviet experts how to expand our cooperation. For example, it is growing in various industries. The Soviet robotized processing centres. We could have equipped them with our electrodes and designers.

WEATHER

December 3-6

THEATRES

Kremlin Palace of Congresses (Kremlin), Bolshoi Theatre performances: 3 — A concert, 4 — Adem, "Giselle" (ballet), 6 — Verdi, "Il Trovatore" (opera).

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq.), 3 — Prokofiev, "A Story About a Real Man" (opera), 5 — Blaz, "Carmen" (opera), 6 — Prokofiev, "Ivan the Terrible" (ballet).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St.), 4 — Tchaikovsky, "The Queen of Spades" (opera), 5 — Double bill: Rossini, "Bravo Figaro" (ballet), 6 — Rimsky-Korsakov, "May Night" (opera).

Opera and Ballet Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St.), 3 — Ziv, "Mesmer's Affairs", 5 — Kelman, "The Gipsy Princess", 6 — Kramer, "Catherine".

Central Concert Hall (Moskovskaya Embankment), 3 — Concerts by prominent artists, 4 — Double bill: Plazza, "Bach and Nine Tanzen" (ballet), 6 — Rimsky-Korsakov, "May Night" (opera).

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